



The Progressive Episcopal Church

ORDAINED MINISTRY CANDIDATE STANDARDS

Adopted by the General Synod of the Progressive Episcopal Church

March 22, 2013

The minimum standards for diaconate and priestly ordination throughout the dioceses of the Progressive Episcopal Church are as follows:

Personal Suitability

Each individual diocesan bishop determines the personal suitability of a candidate for ordination by their own episcopal experience and guidance, but ensures each candidate satisfies the minimum requirement of passing a criminal background check, including the U.S. Department of Justice Sexual Offender Registry.

Spiritual Orientation

Each individual diocesan bishop determines the spiritual orientation of a candidate for ordination by their own episcopal experience and guidance, but this minimum requirement ensures each candidate is actively developing, cultivating and maturing a general personal spirituality which is rooted in the Christian faith tradition. This requirement in no way implies an exclusion of other faith tradition's spirituality or limits the candidate from exploring other spiritualities or practices, but ensures the candidate is centrally committed to the Christian faith tradition and the Anglican heritage of spirituality.

Theological Aptitude

Each individual diocesan bishop determines the theological aptitude of a candidate for ordination by their own episcopal experience and guidance, but this minimum requirement ensures each candidate possesses an adequate academic and theoretical aptitude for theological knowledge and theory. This minimum requirement is established by the candidate pursuing formal seminary training and personal formation activities as directed by each diocesan bishop. In accordance with the Anglican heritage and traditions, each candidate for diaconal ordination would possess at least an Associate's Degree in Ministry, Theology, Divinity or equivalent and a priestly candidate would possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Ministry, Theology, Divinity or equivalent prior to ordination. The equivalency of degrees and the theological aptitude of each ordination candidate shall be determined by the diocesan bishop. Diocesan bishops shall use generally accepted theological and ministry academic principles in making their determination.

Ministry Preparedness

Each individual diocesan bishop determines the ministry preparedness of a candidate for ordination by their own episcopal experience and guidance, but this minimum requirement ensures each candidate is prepared and capable of exercising the pastoral, liturgical and ecclesiastical functions of the order to which they are to be ordained (diaconate or priesthood). As examples, deacons should know how to administer baptism and all other diaconal ministerial functions and priests should know how to celebrate the Eucharist and all other priestly ministerial functions.

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